

Front Page	Back Page	Other Page
AUBURN, N.Y. CITIZEN-ADVERTISER		
E. 13,174		
MAR 24 1967		
Komer's Assignment		
<p>The military men in Vietnam obviously sniff success in the air. More of the enemy are being put out of action or captured, the number of deserters and defectors has doubled within a year.</p> <p>Considerable terrain including roads formerly in Viet Cong hands are coming under at least nominal control of American and South Vietnamese forces. But the pacification program to make these liberated areas safe and politically stable has made little headway. Mr. Robert W. Komer has been given the very important job of getting it moving.</p> <p>Mr. Komer is described as having "enormous energy, enthusiasm and optimism." He has been a special Assistant to the President, a Kennedy hold-over. He was an intelligence officer in the war, graduated from the Harvard Business School and then served a term in the <u>Central Intelligence Agency</u> before moving on to the White House. There he has had general supervision over the Washington end of the pacification program and is reported to have become impatient with the manner in which the State Department men were handling it in the field.</p> <p>In Saigon, Komer will work under the new Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and presumably be subordinate to the new No. 2 man, Eugene M. Locke, moved from the Embassy in Pakistan. However, Mr. Komer does not sound like a man who enjoys plying second fiddle to any State Department diplomat. He may well become a kind of No. 1½ man — or at least try to be.</p>		

Komer's Assignment

The military men in Vietnam obviously sniff success in the air. More of the enemy are being put out of action or captured, the number of deserters and defectors has doubled within a year.

Considerable terrain including roads formerly in Viet Cong hands are coming under at least nominal control of American and South Vietnamese forces. But the pacification program to make these liberated areas safe and politically stable has made little headway. Mr. Robert W. Komer has been given the very important job of getting it moving.

Mr. Komer is described as having "enormous energy, enthusiasm and optimism." He has been a special Assistant to the President, a Kennedy hold-over. He was an intelligence officer in the war, graduated from the Harvard Business School and then served a term in the Central Intelligence Agency before moving on to the White House. There he has had general supervision over the Washington end of the pacification program and is reported to have become impatient with the manner in which the State Department men were handling it in the field.

In Saigon, Komer will work under the new Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and presumably be subordinate to the new No. 2 man, Eugene M. Locke, moved from the Embassy in Pakistan. However, Mr. Komer does not sound like a man who enjoys plying second fiddle to any State Department diplomat. He may well become a kind of No. 1½ man — or at least try to be.

CPYRGHT